



**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

March 4, 2005

# News Release

## **TWO ALLEGED SMUGGLERS INDICTED ON TWENTY-FIVE ALIEN SMUGGLING COUNTS**

MIAMI –Marcos Daniel Jiménez, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida; Jesus Torres, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and Rear Admiral D. Brian Peterman, Commander - 7th Coast Guard District, United States Coast Guard (USCG), announced today an Indictment returned on Feb.16, 2005, by a federal grand jury sitting in Key West, Florida, charging defendants, Juan Carlos Perez and Noelvis Soler, with one count of conspiracy to smuggle illegal aliens into the United States, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(A), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, and 24 substantive counts of alien smuggling, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(A).

On Thursday, Perez made his initial appearance in federal court in Miami, Florida, following his arrest. Soler's arrest remains pending. If convicted on the alien smuggling conspiracy count, the defendants face a maximum statutory term of one-year in prison. If convicted on the substantive alien smuggling counts, the defendants face a maximum statutory term of one-year in prison as to each count.

On Oct. 31, 2004, the USCG received information that a go-fast vessel was located approximately 14 nautical miles north of Havana, Cuba with approximately 27 persons on board. The USCG cutter proceeded to the area. Upon arrival, a USCG boarding team discovered that there were 24 Cuban migrants and two U.S. parolees from Cuba onboard the vessel.

Mr. Jiménez commended the investigative efforts of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the United States Coast Guard.

Assistant United States Attorney Daniel Fridman is prosecuting the case.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*